1	2	3	4
Manipur	5,000	1276	—
Meghalaya	5,000	1177	—
Mizoram	5,000	1221	—
Nagaland	10,000	1142	—
Orissa	30,000	1135	30,000
Puducherry	1,000	1164	—
Punjab	40,000	1021	40,000
Rajasthan	30,000	1047	30,000
Sikkim	5,000	1162	—
Tamil Nadu	50,000	1154	50,000
Tripura	10,000	1239	—
Uttar Pradesh	40,000	1055	40,000
Uttarakhand	25,000	1036	25,000
West Bengal	50,000	1120	50,000

Price rise

56. KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any definite proposal to give relief from the price hike on various essential commodities including vegetable to the BPL/APL card holders;

(b) whether quantum of wheat, rice, sugar, kerosene etc. fixed per person per BPL/APL card increased sufficiently in the context of the present price hike;

(c) if so, the details of the response of his Ministry on price hike; and

(d) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) Government has taken several policy decisions in order to give relief from the price hike on rice, wheat, sugar, edible oil and kerosene to the BPL/APL card holders as listed below. Vegetables are not distributed under PDS.

1. **Rice and Wheat:** Allocation of foodgrains under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is made for BPL and AAY families on the basis of 1993-94 poverty estimates of the Planning Commission projected on the population estimates of

Registrar General of India as on 1.3.2000 or the number of families actually identified and ration cards issued by State Government, **whichever is less**.

Accordingly, allocations of foodgrains (wheat, rice) for AAY and BPL categories are made @35 kg. per family per month to all accepted number of 6.52 crores families in the country.

However, allocations for APL category are made depending upon the availability of stocks of foodgrains in the Central Pool. Besides the normal monthly allocation for APL category, adhoc additional/festival allocations of 11.45 lakh tonnes of wheat and 1.54 lakh tonnes of rice have also been made to various States/UTs for the period July to December, 2008.

2. **Sugar**: In order to ensure better targeting in PDS, w.e.f. 1.2.2001, the Central Government restricted the supply of levy sugar under PDS to BPL families except in the North Eastern States, Hilly States and Island Territories where universal coverage was allowed to continue. Further, the Government increased the minimum per capita per month quantum of levy sugar distribution from 425 gms. to 500 gms. to benefit the BPL families and the population covered for supply of levy sugar under PDS was on the basis of the projected population as on 1st March, 2000. Accordingly, the allotment of levy sugar is made on the basis of fixed States/UTs quotas with effect from 1.2.2001. Besides, a quantity of about 1.00 lakh MT is allotted as fixed Annual Festival quota of the States/UTs as per the scheduled festival requirement of the State Governments/UT Administrations.

3. **Edible Oils**: The Government has launched a scheme on 28.07.2008 to distribute one million tons of edible oils to States/UTs at a subsidy @ Rs.15/kg. So far, orders have been placed for import of 3.12 lakh tons of edible oils. Of this, about 2.28 lakh tone of edible oil has been shipped. Till 13.10.2008, 2.39 lakh tons of edible oils has landed at various ports in India. As on 13.10.2008, 1.43 lakh tons of edible oil has been delivered to various States/UTs for distribution to ration card holders @ 1 kg per ration card per month.

4. **Kerosene**: In order to check the black marketing of Public Distribution System (PDS) kerosene, the Central Government have made provision in the Kerosene (Restriction on Use and Fixation of Ceiling Price) Order, 1993, issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, according to which the dealers cannot sell PDS kerosene at a price higher than the price fixed by the Government or OMCs and that the PDS kerosene dealers should prominently display stock-cum-price board at the place of business including the place of store at a conspicuous place. With the objective of ensuring that the benefit of the subsidy reaches the targeted consumers in an efficient

and cost-effective manner and to prevent any leakages, Ministry of Petroleum has proposed introduction of Smart Card System for distribution of PDS kerosene. The scheme is proposed to be introduced initially on an experimental basis. In the Pilot project, subsidized kerosene through Smart Card is proposed to be available to BPL families while all other ration card holders would be given non-subsidized kerosene.

(d) Does not arise.

Strengthening role and efficiency of PDS

57. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to strengthen role and efficiency of Public Distribution System (PDS); and

(b) whether Government is also considering any proposal to universalize access to Public Distribution System?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) TPDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Government of India and State/UT Governments. The Government of India carries out procurement of foodgrains for the TPDS, their storage, transportation and allocation to the State/UT Governments. The responsibilities for allocation foodgrains within a State/UT, identification of eligible BPL and AAY families based on estimates of Planning Commission and issuance of ration cards to them, and supervision of distribution of allocated foodgrains to eligible ration card holders through the fair price shops rest with the respective State/UT Governments.

Government has been continuously taking steps to strengthen the TPDS by improving its efficiency. Government got evaluated the TPDS by PEO (Planning Commission) and ORG MARG.. Certain shortcomings were pointed out in their evaluation reports received in 2005. In view of these reports, to strengthen the TPDS and to curb leakages and diversion of foodgrains meant for TPDS, in consultation with State and UT Governments, the Government evolved a 9-point Action Plan in 2006. This includes measures such as review of BPL and AAY lists for exclusion of ineligible families and inclusion of eligible families, ensuring leakage free distribution by taking penal action against those found indulging in malpractices, involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions in functioning of FPS, display of BPL and AAY lists at fair price shops, door step delivery of PDS commodities to fair price shops, etc. The Action Plan is under implementation in States and UTs since July, 2006 and is being closely monitored by FPS level Vigilance Committees.

The Government has taken various other measures to improve functioning of the TPDS. A Revised Citizen's Charter has been issued and is being implemented since July, 2007. Monthly certification of delivery of allocated foodgrains to FPS and their distribution to ration card holders